



Illustration by John H. Rumely,  
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### ***PETASITES FRIGIDUS VAR NIVALIS*** **PALMATE-LEAVED COLTSFOOT**

Palmate-leaved Coltsfoot is a perennial with erect flowering stems that are 10-30 cm high and clothed in alternate, overlapping, brownish parallel-veined bracts that are 25-60 mm long. Leaves arise from the rhizomes separately and later than stems. Blades are up to 20 cm wide and are spade-shaped with lobed margins and long petioles. Leaves are glabrous above but covered with long white hairs beneath. Many stalked flower heads are borne in a small umbrella-shaped inflorescence at the top of the stem. Each head is 5-9 mm high and has a single series of involucral bracts surrounding the white tubular flowers. Some heads have flowers with fertile ovaries and inconspicuous rays but without stamens. Other heads have flowers without rays but with fertile stamens and sterile ovaries. The achenes are topped by numerous unbranched, white pappus bristles. Flowering in late May - early June

The more common *PETASITES SAGITTATUS* has arrow-shaped leaves that are evenly toothed or serrated on the margins rather than lobed.